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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER SAMPLE, JONATHAN L				
ART UNIT 4184		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 02/05/2009		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/575,083

Applicant(s)

KIKUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

JONATHAN SAMPLE

Art Unit

4184

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 April 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/7/2006 and 8/12/2006
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of the Information Disclosure Statements (IDS) filed on 4/7/2006 and 8/12/2008, which have been entered in the file. Claims 1-10 have been cancelled. Claims 11-20 are pending.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 13 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 13 is dependant upon Claim 1, which has been cancelled by the applicant. For purposes of this examination it is interpreted that Claim 13 is dependant upon Claim 11. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Roekel et al (US 5,559,938) in view of Nimura (US 2003/0220735 A1).

Re Claim 11. Van Roekel et al teaches a map displaying apparatus that obtains map data including curved- point coordinate information and name information of a traffic route for displaying the traffic route and displays a map based on the obtained map data on a display screen, the map displaying apparatus comprising: a display-area determining unit (Figure 1, display sub-system 32) that determines a display area in which the map is to be displayed (Figure 4 and column 2, line 59-column 3, line 5 and column 3, lines 62-67); a map-display-data

generating unit that determines a display position of each character or symbol included in a character/symbol string in the name information so that the character or the symbol is positioned along the traffic route without interfering with another character or symbol, and generates map display data for displaying the character or the symbol at the determined display position (column 1, line 57-column 2, line 7 and column 6, line 63-column 7, line 15). Van Roekel et al teaches obtaining map data from a CD-ROM but specifically fails to teach an obtaining unit that obtains, from the map data transmitted from the map-data distributing server, the curved-point coordinate information and the name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area determined by the display-area determining unit.

Nimura teaches a navigation system that also includes a display unit (Figure 2, display unit 35) that determines a display area in which the map is to be displayed (see paragraph 43). Nimura also teaches the use of a data center (Figure 1, data center 51) that is accessed via a network (Figure 1, network 52) to obtain map data, including information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area (see paragraph 48).

In view of Nimura's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include with the map displaying apparatus as taught by Van Roekel et al, an obtaining unit that obtains, from the map data transmitted from the map-data distributing server, the curved-point coordinate information and the name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area determined by the display-area determining unit; since Nimura teaches that obtaining map data transmitted from the data center via a network provides the most current map information and may be updated as needed.

Re Claim 12. Van Roekel et al teaches wherein when a display angle of the character or the symbol is rotatable, the map-display-data generating unit determines the display angle of the character or the symbol so that the character or the symbol is positioned along the traffic route, and generates the map display data so that the character or the symbol is sequentially displayed from left to right on the display screen (Figure 6b, column 3, line 62-column 4, line 9 and column 5, lines 11-41).

Re Claim 13. Van Roekel et al teaches wherein when a display angle of the character or the symbol is not rotatable, the map-display- data generating unit determines a direction in which the character or the symbol is to be displayed sequentially on the display screen, based on an inclination angle of the traffic route with respect to a predetermined direction of the display screen, and generates the map display data for sequentially displaying the character/symbol string in the determined direction (column 4, lines 6-19). It is interpreted from the teachings of Van Roekel et al that if the character is not rotatable, then the characters can be stored in a string of straight sections and modified as necessary.

Re Claim 14. The map displaying apparatus according to claim 13, wherein when the display angle of the character or the symbol is not rotatable, the map-display-data generating unit generates the map display data for displaying the character or the symbol from left to right if the inclination angle of the traffic route with respect to a horizontal direction of the display screen is smaller than a predetermined angle, and for displaying the character or the symbol from top to bottom if the inclination angle is equal to or larger than the predetermined angle (Figures 6a and

6b, and column 4, lines 47-57 and column 5, lines 11-25). Van Roekel et al teaches that depending on the displayed map, the character path starting and end points can be transformed by rotation or translation in order to be displayed within the display area on the displaying apparatus.

Re Claim 15. The map displaying apparatus according to claim 11, wherein upon judging whether the character or the symbol interferes with the other character or symbol, the map-display-data generating unit uses a judgment character pixel range that is larger than a pixel range for displaying a single character or a single symbol, and judges whether the pixel range of the other character interferes with the judgment character pixel range (Figures 7a through 7e, and column 5, line 45-column 6, line 12).

Re Claim 16. A map displaying apparatus that obtains map data including curved- point coordinate information and name information of a traffic route for displaying the traffic route individually, which is transmitted from a map-data distributing server via a network, and displays a map based on the obtained map data on a display screen, the map displaying apparatus comprising: a display-area determining unit (Figure 1, display sub-system 32) that determines a display area in which the map is to be displayed (Figure 4 and column 2, line 59-column 3, line 5 and column 3, lines 62-67) and a map-display-data generating unit that generates map display data for displaying a character/symbol string in the name information along the traffic route, wherein before generating the map display data, the map-display-data generating unit judges whether the map display data for displaying the character/symbol string in the display area

determined by the display-area determining unit is generated, and if the map display data is generated, the map-display-data generating unit does not generate the map display data (Figure 6a, column 4, line 47-column 5, line 10). Van Roekel et al teaches obtaining map data from a CD-ROM but specifically fails to teach an obtaining unit that obtains, from the map data transmitted from the map-data distributing server, the curved-point coordinate information and the name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area determined by the display-area determining unit.

Nimura teaches a navigation system that also includes a display unit (Figure 2, display unit 35) that determines a display area in which the map is to be displayed (see paragraph 43). Nimura also teaches the use of a data center (Figure 1, data center 51) that is accessed via a network (Figure 1, network 52) to obtain map data, including information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area (see paragraph 48).

In view of Nimura's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include with the map displaying apparatus as taught by Van Roekel et al, an obtaining unit that obtains, from the map data transmitted from the map-data distributing server, the curved-point coordinate information and the name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area determined by the display-area determining unit; since Nimura teaches that obtaining map data transmitted from the data center via a network provides the most current map information and may be updated as needed.

Re Claim 17. A method of obtaining map data including curved-point coordinate information and name information of a traffic route for displaying the traffic route individually, which is

transmitted from a map-data distributing server via a network, and displaying a map based on the obtained map data on a display screen, the method comprising: determining a display area in which the map is to be displayed (Figure 4 and column 2, line 59-column 3, line 5 and column 3, lines 62-67); generating including determining a display position of each character or symbol included in a character/symbol string in the name information so that the character or the symbol is positioned along the traffic route without interfering with other character or symbol, and generating map display data for displaying the character or the symbol at the determined display position (column 1, line 57-column 2, line 7 and column 6, line 63-column 7, line 15). Van Rockel et al teaches obtaining map data from a CD-ROM but specifically fails to teach an obtaining unit that obtains, from the map data transmitted from the map-data distributing server, the curved-point coordinate information and the name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area determined by the display-area determining unit.

Nimura teaches a navigation system that also includes a display unit (Figure 2, display unit 35) that determines a display area in which the map is to be displayed (see paragraph 43). Nimura also teaches the use of a data center (Figure 1, data center 51) that is accessed via a network (Figure 1, network 52) to obtain map data, including information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area (see paragraph 48).

In view of Nimura's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include with the method of obtaining map data for the map displaying apparatus as taught by Van Rockel et al, an obtaining unit that obtains, from the map data transmitted from the map-data distributing server, the curved-point coordinate information and the name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area determined by the display-area determining unit;

since Nimura teaches that obtaining map data transmitted from the data center via a network provides the most current map information and may be updated as needed.

Re Claim 18. A method of obtaining map data including curved-point coordinate information and name information of a traffic route for displaying the traffic route individually, which is transmitted from a map-data distributing server via a network, and displaying a map based on the obtained map data on a display screen, comprising: determining a display area in which the map is to be displayed (Figure 4 and column 2, line 59-column 3, line 5 and column 3, lines 62-67) and generating map display data for displaying a character/symbol string in the name information along the traffic route, wherein before generating the map display data, the generating includes judging whether the map display data for displaying the character/symbol string in the display area determined at the determining is generated, and not generating the map display data if the map display data is generated (Figure 6a, column 4, line 47-column 5, line 10). Van Roekel et al teaches obtaining map data from a CD-ROM but specifically fails to teach an obtaining unit that obtains, from the map data transmitted from the map-data distributing server, the curved-point coordinate information and the name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area determined by the display-area determining unit.

Nimura teaches a navigation system that also includes a display unit (Figure 2, display unit 35) that determines a display area in which the map is to be displayed (see paragraph 43). Nimura also teaches the use of a data center (Figure 1, data center 51) that is accessed via a network (Figure 1, network 52) to obtain map data, including information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area (see paragraph 48).

In view of Nimura's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include with the method of obtaining map data for the map displaying apparatus as taught by Van Roekel et al, an obtaining unit that obtains, from the map data transmitted from the map-data distributing server, the curved-point coordinate information and the name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area determined by the display-area determining unit; since Nimura teaches that obtaining map data transmitted from the data center via a network provides the most current map information and may be updated as needed.

Re Claim 19. A computer-readable recording medium that stores a map-displaying program for obtaining map data including curved-point coordinate information and name information of a traffic route for displaying the traffic route individually, which is transmitted from a map-data distributing server via a network, and displaying a map based on the obtained map data on a display screen, wherein the map-displaying program causes a computer to execute: determining a display area in which the map is to be displayed (Figure 4 and column 2, line 59-column 3, line 5 and column 3, lines 62-67) and generating including determining a display position of each character or symbol included in a character/symbol string in the name information so that the character or the symbol is positioned along the traffic route without interfering with other character or symbol and generating map display data for displaying the character or the symbol at the determined display position (column 1, line 57-column 2, line 7 and column 6, line 63-column 7, line 15). Van Roekel et al teaches obtaining map data from a CD-ROM, which is interpreted as a computer-readable medium, but specifically fails to teach an obtaining unit that obtains, from the map data transmitted from the map-data distributing server, the curved-point

coordinate information and the name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area determined by the display-area determining unit.

Nimura teaches a navigation system that also includes a display unit (Figure 2, display unit 35) that determines a display area in which the map is to be displayed (see paragraph 43). Nimura also teaches the use of a data center (Figure 1, data center 51) that is accessed via a network (Figure 1, network 52) to obtain map data, including information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area (see paragraph 48). Nimura also teaches the use of computer-readable medium used to store map data (see paragraphs 38 and 40).

In view of Nimura's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include in the computer-readable medium for the map displaying apparatus as taught by Van Roekel et al, an obtaining unit that obtains, from the map data transmitted from the map-data distributing server, the curved-point coordinate information and the name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area determined by the display-area determining unit; since Nimura teaches that obtaining map data transmitted from the data center via a network provides the most current map information and may be updated as needed.

Re Claim 20. A computer-readable recording medium that stores a map- displaying program for obtaining map data including curved-point coordinate information and name information of a traffic route for displaying the traffic route individually, which is transmitted from a map-data distributing server via a network, and displaying a map based on the obtained map data on a display screen, wherein the map-displaying program causes a computer to execute: determining a display area in which the map is to be displayed (Figure 4 and column 2, line 59-column 3, line 5

and column 3, lines 62-67) and generating map display data for displaying a character/symbol string in the name information along the traffic route, wherein before generating the map display data, the generating includes judging whether the map display data for displaying the character/symbol string in the display area determined at the determining is generated, and not generating the map display data if the map display data is generated (Figure 6a, column 4, line 47-column 5, line 10). Van Roekel et al teaches obtaining map data from a CD-ROM, which is interpreted as a computer-readable medium, but specifically fails to teach an obtaining unit that obtains, from the map data transmitted from the map-data distributing server, the curved-point coordinate information and the name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area determined by the display-area determining unit.

Nimura teaches a navigation system that also includes a display unit (Figure 2, display unit 35) that determines a display area in which the map is to be displayed (see paragraph 43). Nimura also teaches the use of a data center (Figure 1, data center 51) that is accessed via a network (Figure 1, network 52) to obtain map data, including information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area (see paragraph 48). Nimura also teaches the use of computer-readable medium used to store map data (see paragraphs 38 and 40).

In view of Nimura's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include in the computer-readable medium for the map displaying apparatus as taught by Van Roekel et al, an obtaining unit that obtains, from the map data transmitted from the map-data distributing server, the curved-point coordinate information and the name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area determined by the display-area determining unit;

since Nimura teaches that obtaining map data transmitted from the data center via a network provides the most current map information and may be updated as needed.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See attached PTO-892 – Notice of References Cited form.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Sample whose telephone number is (571)270-5925. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH 7-4:30, Alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jared Fureman can be reached on 571-272-2391. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JONATHAN SAMPLE/
Examiner, Art Unit 4184

/Isam Alsomiri/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3662

1/29/2009